## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 15, 2010

The Honorable Patrick Leahy Chairman Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye Chairman Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Judd Gregg Ranking Member Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran Ranking Member Senate Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Leahy and Inouye and Ranking Members Gregg and Cochran:

As the committee begins consideration of the FY2011 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill and report, we write in support of the following project.

Consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, we certify that neither ourselves nor any member of our immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that we have requested in the fiscal year 2011 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill and report.

**Project Title:** 

Mobility International USA Clearinghouse

Grantee:

Mobility International USA, Eugene, Oregon

FY 2011 Request:

Department of State, Educational and Cultural Exchange Programs

\$500,000

The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse educates people with disabilities and disability-related organizations about international opportunities; works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in the full range of international exchange programs; provides international exchange organizations and colleges and universities with practical how-to consultation, assisting them to be proactive in their inclusion of people with disabilities in their programs; and facilitates partnerships between people with disabilities, disability-related organizations and international exchange organizations. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse also has a foreign language initiative to promote participation of people with disabilities in foreign language international exchange programs.

This project will provide jobs to approximately twelve full-time and consultant employees, of whom more than 50% are people with disabilities. In addition, the project provides employment training for university interns and students. The Mobility International USA Clearinghouse potentially provides information to the 60 million people with disabilities in the US so that they may have the opportunity to participate in international exchange, which can result in better

employment, especially as the world economy seeks more employees with cross-cultural and foreign language capabilities.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Isaiah Akin on Senator Wyden's staff at 4-5244 or Courtney Thompson on Sen. Merkley's staff at 4-3753.

Sincerely,

Ron Wyden

United States Senator

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